-2-

NEC-2370-US

09/853,622

04150012aa

Amendment dated 11/18/2004

Reply to office action mailed 08/18/2004

## Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title at page 1, lines 3-5 with the following:

A METHOD FOR SMOOTHING A BARRIER LAYER IN A
MAGNETORESISTIVE EFFECT SENSOR BY SMOOTHING A LAYER UPON
WHICH THE BARRIER LAYER IS FORMED, AND A SENSOR HAVING A
BARRIER LAYER FORMED UPON A SMOOTHED LAYER